

### Remarks

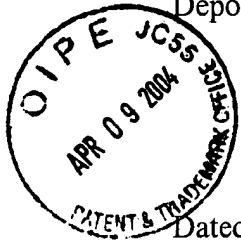
Amendment of the claims is requested to place them in better condition for allowance, or in the alternative, consideration on appeal. Claims 1, 3, 5-7, 9-11, 13, 15-17, 19, and 21 were pending. Claims 9, 14, 19, and 21 have been canceled without prejudice, and claims 1, 10, and 11 have been amended. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1, 3, 5-7, 10, 11, 13, 15-17, and 22-24 will be pending and in condition for allowance. Note also that the status of claims 8 and 18 has been changed from withdrawn to canceled, as requested by the Examiner. Antecedent basis for the amended claims exists throughout the specification. The amendment raises no new issues, nor would it entail the need for further search on the part of the Examiner. Entry of the amendment is within the discretion of the Examiner, and is respectfully requested.

The rejection under Section 102(b) has been rendered moot by the amendment combining claim 5 into claim 1, and likewise claim 15 into claim 11.

The rejection under Section 103 has been addressed, at least in part, by adopting the Examiner's suggestion to positively recite "endoleaking" in the claims. In essence, the rejection merely identifies a reference that is typical of those in which bioactive agents might be attached by photochemical means to a surface, including the surface of a "vascular" graft, albeit without any reference to, or suggestion of, the unique category of endovascular grafts. The Action then attempts to combine that reference, based solely on hindsight, with a "teaching" reference that generally describes endovascular grafts, though in a manner that fails to describe the use of coatings - of any type - to prevent endoleaking, let alone thin, conformal coatings of the type presently claimed. The difference between endovascular grafts and vascular grafts, and the corresponding constraints and concerns that are raised by the former, is well established in both the art and reflected throughout the specification, and simply cannot be ignored. Hence the claims as amended are believed to be patentable, and favorable action is required.

Accordingly, entry of the present Amendment and allowance of the amended claims is respectfully requested. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned in the event any remaining issues remain to be resolved.

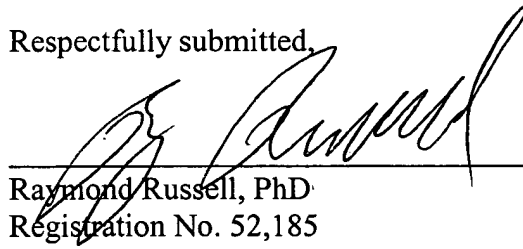
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional filing fees required to Deposit Account No. 061910. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.



Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

4/5/04

Respectfully submitted,

  
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